LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF LOUISIANA, OFFICE OF CONSERVATION, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA.

In accordance with the laws of the State of Louisiana, and with particular reference to the provisions of Title 30 of Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, a public hearing will be held in the Hearing Room, 1st Floor, LaSalle Building, 617 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at 9:00 a.m., on TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2003, upon the application of THE MERIDIAN RESOURCE & EXPLORATION, L.L.C.

At such hearing the Commissioner of Conservation will consider evidence relative to the issuance of an Order pertaining to the following matters relating to the **Operc B Zone**, **Reservoir B**, **the Operc B Zone**, **Reservoir B**, **the Operc B Zone**, **Reservoir B**, **the Operc 3 Sand**, **Reservoir B** and **the Operc 5 Sand**, **Reservoir A**, in the Ramos Field, St. Mary, Assumption & Terrebonne Parishes, Louisiana.

AS TO THE OPERC B ZONE, RESERVOIR B

- 1. To redesignate the Operc B Sand, Reservoir B, as adopted by Office of Conservation Order No. 389-F-1, effective September 16, 1998, as the Operc B Zone, Reservoir B and redefined the Operc B Zone, Reservoir B as more particularly defined herein.
- 2. To confirm and continue in full force and effect OPERC B RB SUA, created by Office of Conservation Order No. 389-F-1 for the Operc B Sand, as a single drilling and production unit for the Operc B Zone, Reservoir B, as redefined herein.
- 3. To designate The Meridian Resource & Exploration, L.L.C. as the unit operator for the proposed unit.
- 4. To designate the Meridian Resource & Exploration, L.L.C. C M Thibodeaux No. 3 Well as the unit well for the proposed unit.
- 5. To provide that the Commissioner of Conservation should be authorized to reclassify the Operc B Zone, Reservoir B, by supplemental order without the necessity of a public hearing if the producing characteristics of the reservoir change and evidence to justify such reclassification is submitted to and accepted by the Commissioner of Conservation.
- 6. To consider such other matters as may be pertinent.

AS TO THE OPERC B ZONE, RESERVOIR F

- To dissolve OPERC B RB SUB created by Office of Conservation Order No. 389-F-1, and simultaneously therewith, to establish rules and regulations and create a single drilling and production unit for the exploration for and production of gas and condensate from the Operc B Zone, Reservoir F, designated OPERC B RF SUA, such unit having exterior boundaries identical to the boundaries of OPERC B RB SUB created by Office of Conservation Order No. 389-F-1.
- 2. To force pool and integrate all separately owned tracts, mineral leases and other property interests within the proposed unit, with each tract sharing in unit production on a surface acreage basis of participation.

- 7 - Page 2

RAMOS FIELD 03-17 THRU 03-21

3. To designate The Meridian Resource & Exploration, L.L.C. as the unit operator for the proposed unit.

- 4. To designate the Meridian Resource & Exploration, L.L.C. Norman Breaux No. 1 Well as the unit well for the proposed unit.
- 5. To provide that the Commissioner of Conservation should be authorized to reclassify the Operc B Zone, Reservoir F, by supplemental order without the necessity of a public hearing if the producing characteristics of the reservoir change and evidence to justify such reclassification is submitted to and accepted by the Commissioner of Conservation.
- 6. To consider such other matters as may be pertinent.

AS TO THE OPERC C SAND, RESERVOIR B

- To establish rules and regulations and create a single drilling and production unit for the exploration for and production of gas and condensate, such unit to be designated OPERC C RB SUA.
- 2. To force pool and integrate all separately owned tracts, mineral leases and other property interests within the proposed unit, with each tract sharing in unit production on a surface acreage basis of participation.
- 3. To provide that the Commissioner of Conservation should be authorized to reclassify the reservoir by supplemental order without the necessity of a public hearing if the producing characteristics of the reservoir change and evidence to justify such reclassification is submitted to and accepted by the Commissioner of Conservation.
- 4. To consider such other matters as may be pertinent.

AS TO THE OPERC 3 SAND, RESERVOIR B AND THE OPERC 5 SAND, RESERVOIR A

1. To confirm and continue in full force and effect the drilling and production units created for the Operc 3 Sand, Reservoir B by Office of Conservation Order No. 389-E-2, effective September 16, 1998 and the drilling and production units created for the Operc 5 Sand, Reservoir A, by Office of Conservation Order No. 389-H, effective September 16, 1998.

The Operc B Zone, Reservoir B, in the Ramos Field, Assumption Parish, Louisiana, is hereby defined as that certain gas and condensate bearing interval encountered between the depths of 17,206' and 17,916' (TVD) in The Meridian Resource & Exploration, L.L.C. (Burlington Resources, Inc.) - Avoca Inc No. 1 Well, located in Section 36, Township 16 South, Range 13 East.

The Operc B Zone, Reservoir F, in the Ramos Field, Assumption Parish, Louisiana, is hereby defined as that gas and condensate bearing interval encountered between the depths of 17,503' and 17,750' (TVD) in The Meridian Resource & Exploration, L.L.C. - Norman Breaux No. 1 Well, located in Section 33, Township 16 South, Range 13 East.

The Operc C Sand, Reservoir B, in the Ramos Field, Assumption Parish, Louisiana, is hereby defined as that certain gas and condensate bearing sand encountered between the depths of 18,125' and 18,180' (ELM) in The Meridian Resource & Exploration, L.L.C. - C M Thibodeaux No. 1 Well, located in Section 36, Township 16 South, Range 13 East.

-7 - Page 3

RAMOS FIELD 03-17 THRU 03-21

The Operc 3 Sand, Reservoir B, in the Ramos Field, Assumption Parish, Louisiana, was previously defined in Office of Conservation Order No. 389-D-2, effective September 15, 1998, and is hereby further defined as that certain gas and condensate bearing sand encountered between the depths of 18,309' and 18,484' (ELM) in The Meridian Resource & Exploration, L.L.C. - C M Thibodeaux No. 1 Well, located in Section 36, Township 16 South, Range 13 East.

The Operc 5 Sand, Reservoir A, in the Ramos Field, Assumption Parish, Louisiana, was previously defined in Office of Conservation Order No. 389-H, effective September 16, 1998 and further defined in Office of Conservation Order No. 389-H-3.

Plats are available for inspection in the Office of Conservation in **Baton Rouge** and **Lafayette**, Louisiana.

www.dnr.state.la.us/CONS/CONSEREN/hearings/pubhearings.htm.

All parties having interest therein shall take notice thereof.

BY ORDER OF:

JAMES H. WELSH COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION

Baton Rouge, La 11/27/02;12/3/02 L dpe

IF ACCOMMODATIONS ARE REQUIRED UNDER AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, PLEASE ADVISE THE OFFICE OF CONSERVATION - ENGINEERING DIVISION AT P. O. BOX 94275, BATON ROUGE, LA 70804-9275 IN WRITING WITHIN TEN (10) WORKING DAYS OF THE HEARING DATE.